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Commission of Fine Arts
18 February 1959

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts
held in Washington, D.C., 18 February 1959, 9:30 a.m.

The Commission met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m. with David E. Finley, Chairman, presiding.

Present were: David E. Finley, Chairman
Felix de Weldon
Mrs. Emily Muir
Michael Rapuano
Wm. G. Perry

L.R. Wilson, Secretary
Susan E. Bennett, Admn. Asst.
Gilbert Halasz, Stenotypist

I. Administration

1. Date of next meeting

March 18, 1959 was confirmed. It was also agreed that an executive session would be held on the afternoon of Tuesday, 17 March, at five o'clock.

2. Executive Order

The Chairman called attention to the text of the revised draft of the Executive Order prepared by the Bureau of the Budget, which had been sent out to all members for study and comment. All the members agreed that the proposed draft was not what they had in mind, and that it would weaken rather than strengthen the Commission. They also deplored the routine of having the text circulated to all the agencies in Washington, where its strength was excised.

The Chairman was directed to write the Director of the Bureau of the Budget informing him that the Commission wished to withdraw its request for a new Executive Order, as it was the opinion of the members that they could better discharge their responsibilities under the present existing Executive Orders, than under the new one. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of these proceedings. Exhibits A, A-1, A-2.

II. Submissions and Interviews

1. General Services Administration

a. Public Buildings Service

1. Howard University - Proposed Home Economics Building

Mr. Robinson presented drawings for the proposed Home Economics Building at Howard University. He explained the requirements of the building, stressing the flexible partition arrangement within the building and showed how the corridors had been expressed on one side of the building by means of a continuous band of fenestration. On three floors it was

suggested that the opposite side of the building be treated in a similar manner, thereby avoiding the irregular spacing of the openings, which would conceivably be subject to alterations when rearrangement of partitions took place. The new window bands matching the corridor windows, would not necessarily need to be all glass, but could be constructed in a composition of solid materials and windows, allowing them to be placed where needed, and, consequently making the whole building more flexible for future use.

Further, the design of the main wing of the building seemed to be injured by strict observance of the mandatory requirements for the penthouse and it was insistently suggested that the jagged silhouette of this structure be simplified by extending a roof around it or by enlarging it in a horizontal manner, to bring the whole mass into more agreeable harmony with the main structure.

It was also suggested that a restudy of the fenestration for the lounge be undertaken with a view to making this feature of the design as attractive and light as possible. The Secretary was directed to write a letter to the Commissioner of Public Buildings informing him of the action on the Home Economics Building. Exhibit B.

2. Howard University - Proposed Physical Education Building
Mr. Elam presented drawings for the Physical Education Building at Howard University. After his presentation the members voted to approve the design with the following suggestions: first, that the steel roof trusses be faced with materials to stand up reasonably against deterioration by weather and time.

Further, that the facade of the administration wing be treated in a manner which would balance and recall the treatment of the facade of the wing enclosing the swimming pool, thus giving more balance to the mass of the structure by using a similar treatment on both sides.

The Secretary was directed to write a letter to the Commissioner of Public Buildings informing him of the action on the Physical Education Building at Howard University. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of these proceedings. Exhibit C.

3. Cooling Tower in the Northeast Interior Court, Internal Revenue Building, Federal Triangle

Mr. Feaslee presented drawings and plans for the proposed cooling tower, which would serve the Federal Triangle group of buildings. After careful consideration, the members stressed that the Triangle buildings had been designed by highly competent architects, and agreed that no important changes should be made in the original designs, such as filling the court with an air cooling tower, particularly when other space would be available to the Government by purchase on Pennsylvania Avenue immediately north of it. It was, therefore, recommended that further efforts be made to find another location for the cooling tower. The Chairman was directed to write a letter to the Commissioner of Public Buildings Service informing him of this action. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of these proceedings. Exhibit D.

4. Federal Office Building #7 and Development of Square 167

Mr. Shepley presented and explained a small-scale model for the proposed complex of buildings to be erected west of Lafayette Square. A long discussion followed on the height and material of the various buildings to be erected in Square 167 and their relationship, including the National Grange Headquarters. The members of the Commission were generally favorable to the plans for the general area, but expressed a desire to see the two buildings at Jackson Place and Pennsylvania Avenue retained, possibly for use in connection with Blair House as the Nation's Guest House. The Chairman was directed to write to the Administrator of General Services informing him of the views of the Commission regarding the development of Square 167. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of the proceedings. Exhibits E, E-1.

5. National Arboretum Headquarters and Administration Building.

Mr. Yerkes presented the perspective drawings for the National Arboretum Headquarters and Administration Building. After careful consideration, the members expressed their satisfaction with the excellence of the design, and it was moved and carried that the design be approved without suggestions. The Secretary was directed to write a letter to the Commissioner of Public Buildings informing him of this action. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of these proceedings. Exhibit F.

2. American Battle Monuments Commission

a. American Military Cemetery - Honolulu - sculpture

The Chairman read a letter from General North asking if it would be possible for members of the Commission to go to Westport, Connecticut, where, because of its size, the sculpture for the above-named cemetery would be enlarged to one-half final scale. It was

agreed that the architect members and the sculptor member should go to Westport when the model would be ready for inspection. The Secretary was instructed to write a letter to the Secretary of the Battle Monuments Commission informing him of this action. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of the proceedings. Exhibits G, G-1.

b. Okinawa Memorial - Selection of architect for

The Chairman read a letter from the Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission stating the desire of that Commission to erect a memorial on Okinawa to commemorate the achievements of the American armed forces there during World War II. The Battle Monuments Commission requested the views of the Commission of Fine Arts on the qualifications of Mr. Alfred E. Poor, who had been recommended as architect for the project. The members voted to recommend the appointment of Mr. Poor who designed the memorial to the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. The Secretary was directed to write to the Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission informing him of this action. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of these proceedings. Exhibit H.

3. Department of the Interior - National Park Service

a. National Capital Parks

1. Water Sports Center

Mr. Haussmann presented and explained drawings for a proposed Water Sports Center to be built at the confluence of Rock Creek and the Potomac River on the mole in Georgetown. The National Park Service had approved the site. A general discussion ensued on the desirability of the site, as well as the architectural features of the building. Suggestions were made for improving the design of the building and Mr. Haussmann was asked to re-study the plans and submit a revised drawing at the next meeting of the Commission. The Secretary was directed to write a letter to the Superintendent of the National Capital Parks informing him of the action. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of the proceedings. Exhibit I.

4. Department of the Army, Quartermaster Corps

a. Heraldic Branch

1. National Security Agency-Exceptional Civilian Service Award

The Secretary presented the design for the above described award. After discussion, the members agreed that the design would not result in a satisfactory medal. It was moved and carried that the design be disapproved. The Secretary was instructed to write a letter to the Chief of the Heraldic Branch informing him of this action. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of these proceedings. Exhibit J.

2. Seal for High Commissioner of Ryukyu Islands (resubmission)
The Secretary presented a revised design for the seal for the High Commissioner. The members approved the design as submitted. The Secretary was directed to write a letter to the Chief of the Heraldic Branch informing him of this action. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of the proceedings. Exhibit K.

3. Seal for National Aeronautics and Space Administration
The Secretary presented a design to be used as a seal. After careful consideration, the design was approved with the suggestion that the letters "USA" be made the same height as the other letters. The Secretary was directed to write a letter to the Chief of the Heraldic Branch informing him of this action. Copy of such letter to be made part of the official record of these proceedings. Exhibit L.

5. Department of the Treasury

a. Lincoln Penny - criticism of change to reverse

The Chairman read to the members a letter received from the National Sculpture Society criticising the change in the design of the Lincoln Penny. The Society protested the change in design of only one side, and pointed out that no coin or medal should ever be changed by any other than the artist who designed the original coin. The Chairman then read the draft of a letter he proposed to send to the Society in reply. The members approved the draft reply. The Chairman was directed to send the letter, and copies of this correspondence is to be made a part of the official record of these proceedings. Exhibits M, M-1.

6. Government of the District of Columbia

a. Department of Highways.

1. Bridges at Pennsylvania Avenue and C Sts. S.E. over Inner Loop
Mr. Tormey presented the revised drawings for the piers of bridges at Pennsylvania Avenue and C Streets, Southeast, which would become part of the proposed Inner Loop. After a discussion of the architectural and structural features of the design, it was voted to approve the design as revised.

2. Theodore Roosevelt Bridge-location and design of lighting standards

Mr. Sawyer stated that he had investigated the possibility of having the lighting standards for the bridge placed on the median strip of the bridge, as requested by the members of the Commission. He reported that the Bureau of Public Roads had ruled that this could not be done, but suggested that the standards be placed on the railings instead. After discussion, it was moved and carried that placing the standards on the railings be approved, with the understanding that a special design for the standard would be prepared. The Secretary was directed to write a letter to the District Commissioners informing them of this action. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of these proceedings. Exhibit N.

3. Theodore Roosevelt Bridge-Approach Roads and Overpasses

The members heard a voluntary report by Mr. John Immer on the Highway Department's plans for approach roads to the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge. Mr. Immer stated that he had been asked by the Committee of 100 to make a study of the system of approach roads and overpasses to the bridge, with a view to preserving the area around the Lincoln Memorial from increased traffic volume. In his opinion, the overpass at 23rd Street would be necessary unless the Arlington Memorial Bridge were made one-way into Washington, and the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge were made one-way to Virginia. The members believed, on first hearing, that Mr. Immer's plan might protect the Lincoln Memorial from considerable traffic invasion and might avoid a bridge over Constitution Avenue at 23rd Street, but they thought that the plan should be given careful study by the District Highway Department, the National Capital Planning Commission and the National Park Service, for determination of its practicality from a traffic standpoint. Mr. Immer said he would be glad to make his plan available for such a review. After such study has been made, the Commission expressed a desire for further discussion of the problem. The Secretary was directed to write to the Engineer Commissioner for the District of Columbia recommending such a review. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of the proceedings. Exhibit O.

4. Washington Channel Bridge - Design for Railing

Mr. Sawyer reviewed progress on the design of the Washington Channel Bridge, which had been previously reviewed by the Commission. He presented revised drawings of the railing for the advice of the Commission. After reviewing the design the members recommended that the cross members in the design be omitted and a plain picket design be used. The Secretary was directed to write a letter to the Engineer Commissioner informing him of this action. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of the proceedings. Exhibit P.

b. Department of Buildings and Grounds

1. Fire Station, 23rd Street and M St. N. W. - Revised Design

Mr. Crutchfield presented revised perspective drawings for the above noted Fire Station. After reviewing the drawings, the members of the Commission noted revisions in the design that had been made, namely, a coordination of the wing with the main block by horizontal roof and lintel line. The Commission approved the design with the suggestion that the windows of the second floor be divided into four units instead of three, on the front elevation and along the side of the dormitory wing. Exhibit Q.

2. Fire Training School at Blue Plains, Va. (revised drawing)
Mr. Furcell presented revised perspective drawings for the complex of buildings in the _Fire Training School at Blue Plains. The members expressed satisfaction with the revised drawings, and the design was approved as submitted. Exhibit Q.

3. Police Station, Precinct #4, 4th and E Streets, SW Revised Design
Mr. Crutchfield presented revised drawings for the design of this police station. The members thought the design satisfactory, but suggested that the low wall around the flagpole and the pavement at the base of the flagpole be eliminated. The design was approved as submitted. Exhibit Q.

4. Fire Station, 6th and E Streets, S. W. Revised Design
Mr. Crutchfield presented the revised perspective drawings of this design. The members thought the design generally satisfactory but recommended that the four projecting piers between the three access doors, be omitted, leaving only the terminal piers and the overhead protection. With these suggestions, the design was approved. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Chief of the Department of Buildings and Grounds informing him of the actions taken on the above four submissions as listed. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of these proceedings. Exhibit Q.

5. Amidon Greenleaf Elementary School, 4th and I Streets, S. W. Revised Design
Mr. Crutchfield presented revised perspective drawings for the above-named school. After discussion, Mr. Perry summarized the suggestions made stating that exception was taken to the prominence of the stair towers as unnecessarily conspicuous. He stated that the Commission would appreciate further study on the design for the stair towers; also that further study should be given to the design of the windows on the ground floor. He recommended that the restudy of the design for the stair towers be extended to include the entrance; also the stair towers should be more harmonious in surface treatment and color with the building itself. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Chief of the Department of Buildings and Grounds informing him of this action. Copy of such letter to be made a part of the official record of these proceedings. Exhibit R.

c. Department of Licenses and Inspections

1. Building applications submitted under the Shipstead-Luce Act
The actions recommended by the Shipstead-Luce Panel of Architects, on the submissions listed on Appendix 1, were confirmed. Exhibit S.

2. Preliminary Shipstead-Luce Submission

United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners Hdqr. Bldg.

The Secretary reported that he and Mr. Perry had talked with the representative of Holabird and Root, Architects, Mr. Robert Ward, and had transmitted the suggestions of the Commission about reducing the vertical accent of the pilasters and reducing the impact of the penthouse; also a restudy of the relationship to Constitution Avenue. Revised drawings were to be submitted at a later date.

3. Extension of boundaries of Shipstead-Luce Act

In connection with the building program being planned for Square 167, west of Jackson Place and facing Lafayette Square, there was a discussion about extending the boundaries of the Shipstead-Luce Act to include H and 17th Streets, N. W. The erection of the National Grange building on H Street was cited as an example of the need for surveillance of future designs in this area. The Chairman requested that the matter be presented at the next meeting of the National Capital Planning Commission which was scheduled for March 5th.

4. Building applications submitted under the Old Georgetown Act

The actions recommended by the Secretary, on the submissions listed on Appendix 2, were confirmed. Exhibit T.

III. Legislation

1. See Exhibit U.

2. Citizens Committee on "Old Georgetown Act" Legislation

The members of the special committee appointed to study revisions of Public Law 808, known as the "Old Georgetown Act", met briefly with the members of the Commission to bring them proposed changes in the legislation with a view to strengthening the Act. The proposed changes were briefly outlined, but the Chairman asked that copies of the draft legislation be furnished to each member of the Commission for further study, preparatory to giving their best advice at the next meeting of the Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.


L. R. Wilson
Secretary

2 Aug 1962

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
18 FEBRUARY 1959

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 9:30 a.m. 1. CONVENE, ROOM 7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING.
- 9:45 a.m. 2. PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE SUBMISSIONS: (Mr. J. R. Snyder, Director, Arch'l. & Struct'l. Div., PBS)
- (a) FOB 7, preliminary schemes (Mr. Dean of Perry, Shaw, Hepburn & Dean; Mr. H. R. Shepley of Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbott; Mr. E. I. Price, NCPC)
 - (b) Howard University:
 - ✓(1) Home Economics Bldg. (Mr. H. R. Robinson)
 - ✓(2) Physical Education Bldg. (Mr. Branch Elam of Justement, Elam, Callmer & Kidd)
 - ✓(c) National Arboretum Headquarters & Administration Bldg. (Mr. R. C. Deigert of Deigert & Yerkes)
 - ✓(d) Air Conditioning Plant in Interior Court of Internal Revenue Bldg. (Mr. Horace Peaslee)
 - (e) FOB 8 - design matter regarding spandrels. *Not formally presented
But up in March*
- 11:15 a.m. 3. AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION SUBMISSIONS:
- (a) Hawaii American Military Cemetery - ltr. from ABMC dtd. 2/13/59 re proposal for CFA to visit studio of John Rochovansky, Westport, Conn. to view enlargement of sculpture for Hawaii Cemetery.
 - (b) Okinawa Memorial. Ltr. from AMBC re selection of Mr. Alfred Easton Poor of New York as architect for Okinawa Memorial.
- 11:45 a.m. 4. D. C. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SUBMISSIONS:
- (a) Inner Loop Freeway, Bridge at Pa. Ave. Underpass & Underpass at C St. - Pier Elevation, (Mr. Edmond D. Burke, Supervising Urban Highway Design Engineer)
 - (b) Theodore Roosevelt Bridge - Question of location of lighting standards on bridge (Mr. G. I. Sawyer, Chief, Off. of Planning, Design & Engineering)

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- (a) United States District Court - San Francisco
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 of ...
- (b) United States District Court - San Francisco
 2011-01-13
 John W. ...
 of ...

- (c) Federal Bureau of Investigation - Division of Inspection of
 Inspection of Buildings and Structures (Mr. J. E. Sawyer, Chief,
 Div. of Building, Design & Construction)

- 12:15 p.m. 5. AMERICAN PLANNING & CIVIC ASSN.-COMMITTEE OF 100:
- (a) Theodore Roosevelt Bridge approach scheme by Mr. John Immer, (Rear. Adm. Neill Phillips (USN Ret), Chairman, Comm. of 100; Mr. John R. Immer, Pres., Work Saving International; Mr. G. I. Sawyer, Chief, Off. of Planning, Design & Engineering, D. C. Highway Dept.; Mr. H. T. Thompson, Superintendent, NCP)
- 12:45 p.m. 6. ARMY DEPT.-HERALDIC BRANCH SUBMISSIONS: (Lt. Col. Jas. S. Cook, Jr., Chief, Heraldic Branch)
- (a) National Security Agency, Exceptional Civilian Service Award.
 - (b) Seal for National Aeronautical Space Administration.
 - (c) Seal for the High Commissioner of the Ryukyu.
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch
- 2:15 p.m. 7. D. C. DEPT. OF BLDGS. & GROUNDS SUBMISSIONS: (Mr. R. C. Crutchfield, & Mr. G. A. Purcell)
- (a) Police Precinct #4 at 6th & E St., SW (Revised)
 - (b) Amidon Greenleaf Elem. School at 4th & I Sts., SW (Revised)
 - (c) Fire Training School at Blue Plains (revised)
 - (d) Fire Station, Truck #2, Engine #1 at 23rd & M St., NW (Revised)
 - (e) Fire Station, Truck #10, Engine #13 at 6th & E St., SW
- 3:15 p.m. ✓ 8. NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS SUBMISSION - Water Sports Center (Mr. Wm. M. Haussmann, Chief, Arch'l. Branch,)
- 3:45 p.m. 9. OLD GEORGETOWN-CITIZENS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE DISCUSSION (Dr. Richard C. Howland, Chairman; Rear Adm. Neill Phillips (USN Ret), Chairman, Committee of 100, APCA; Mr. Armistead Peter, III, Pres. Progressive Citizens Assn. of Georgetown; Col. Wm. E. Shepherd, Pres., Georgetown Citizens Assn; Madam Santina Arnold, Pres., Georgetown Business & Professions Assn., Inc; Helen Bullick, Nat'l Trust for Historic Preservation)
- 4:15 p.m. 10. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT SUBMISSION, Preliminary - United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners Hq. Bldg. at Const., La. Avenues, & 2nd St., NW (Mr. B. H. Bradley & Mr. Robert Ward of Holabird & Root)

[illegible]

(c) Theodore Roosevelt Institute; address by Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., February 19, 1960.

(a) National Security Council, Department of Defense
Book No. 0-7, Office of Management

b. Plans & Policies - Planning Division (DOD Plan Div.)
Lec. Sec. 985. D.

(c) Best for the 100th Anniversary of the 100th

(a) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (b) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (c) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (d) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (e) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (f) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (g) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (h) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (i) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (j) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (k) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (l) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (m) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (n) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (o) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (p) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (q) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (r) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (s) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (t) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (u) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (v) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (w) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (x) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (y) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn. (z) Police Department, 440 N. 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn.

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(b) (5) DPP, (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D)

(500-7)

10. The following are the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various committees of the Board of Directors:

(b. 10. 11. 1940, New York, New York)

1. The first part of the document is a letter from the author to the editor, dated 1967. The letter discusses the author's interest in the subject of the journal and the author's intention to submit a paper. The author mentions that the paper is based on a study of the subject and that the author is confident that the paper will be of interest to the readers of the journal. The author also mentions that the paper is being submitted to the journal for consideration.

4:45 p.m. 11. LEGISLATION (See Appendix 3)

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 18 March 1959 - Do we want executive session for that meeting; if so, what time.

13. REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 1/21/59 MEETING (See Appendix 1)

14. REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON OLD GEORGETOWN ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 1/21/59 MEETING (See Appendix 2)

15. DISCUSSIONS:

(a) Ltr. from National Sculpture Society, dtd. 2/9/59 re Lincoln Penny.

(b) Progress of 16th Report.

(c) 50th Anniversary Rpt. of the CFA.

(d) Ltr. from Mr. Phillip Carlson, dtd. 1/21/59 re removal of Flags from Wash. Monument Plaza in connection with proposed redevelopment of same.

(e) National Grange Bldg. on H St between Jackson Pl., & 17th St., NW

11. NATIONAL (See Appendix 2)
12. NATIONAL (See Appendix 2) - five copies for each copy of the report
13. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN ON THE REPORT (See Appendix 1)
14. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN ON THE REPORT (See Appendix 2)
15. DISCUSSION:
 - (a) National Geographic Society, etc. 2/2/52
 - (b) Progress of the report
 - (c) Report of the National Geographic Society, etc. 2/2/52
 - (d) National Geographic Society, etc. 2/2/52
 - (e) National Geographic Society, etc. 2/2/52

March 5, 1959

Dear Mr. Stans:

I have received your draft of the proposed Executive Order based on a request which the Commission of Fine Arts made to the President on October 4, 1956. Our request was accompanied by the draft of an Executive Order which the Commission felt would make the work of the Commission more effective.

The members of the Commission have carefully studied your draft for such an Order and, at the meeting of the Commission which was held on February 18th, the members asked me to write you and say that they preferred to withdraw the request for a new Executive Order, and, under no circumstances, would they wish to substitute the proposed Order for the three Executive Orders signed by Presidents Taft, Wilson, and Harding.

They believe that your proposed draft narrows the status and jurisdiction of the Commission of Fine Arts as conferred by the Act of May 17, 1910 and the Executive Orders of the three Presidents above referred to. Also, they would not wish to see the prestige of the Commission diminished by recirculation of your draft to all the Federal and District of Columbia agencies which, under existing law, must come to the Commission for advice.

We appreciate the time and study which you have given to this matter.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,


David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Maurice Stans
Director
Bureau of the Budget
Washington 25, D. C.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

BUREAU OF THE BUDGET

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

JAN 30 1959

My dear Mr. Finley:

This is in response to your letter of November 7, 1958, to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget relative to the draft Executive order, previously presented by you, which would define certain responsibilities of the Commission of Fine Arts, etc.

That proposed order, as submitted, has presented us with some difficulties in respect of draftsmanship, content, legality, and objections of interested agencies. Accordingly, we have developed a tentative substitute draft of order which was discussed informally with you by a member of our staff on January 27, 1959. A copy of the draft order is enclosed.

We would be willing to transmit the substitute draft, in the form as hereto enclosed, to interested agencies with requests for expressions of their views thereon. Before doing so, however, the Director of the Bureau of the Budget would appreciate being advised as to the views of the Commission of Fine Arts with respect to the substitute draft.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Arthur B. Focke

General Counsel

Honorable David E. Finley
Chairman, Commission of
Fine Arts
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

BUREAU OF THE BUDGET

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1959 FEB 2

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NOTED

1959 FEB 2

WASHINGTON, D. C.
THE WHITE HOUSE

1959 FEB 2

EXECUTIVE ORDER

 PROVIDING FOR THE REFERRAL TO THE COMMISSION
 OF FINE ARTS OF CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO
 THE BEAUTY AND DIGNITY OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, it is ordered as follows:

Section 1. Definitions. As used in this order:

- (a) The word "Commission" means the Commission of Fine Arts.
- (b) The word "Government" means the executive branch of the government of the United States and the municipal government of the District of Columbia.
- (c) The term "national capital area" consists of the areas of the District of Columbia, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudon, and Prince William Counties in Virginia, Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties in Maryland, and all cities located in Maryland or Virginia within the area bounded by the outer boundaries of the combined area of said counties.

Section 2. General policy. It is the policy of the executive branch of the Government of the United States, with due regard to economy, utility, and other appropriate considerations, (1) to preserve and enhance the American cultural traditions as expressed in the civic beauty and monumental dignity of the national capital area, (2) to maintain a high level of cultural quality in the works of art seen by visitors to parks and public

CONFIDENTIAL

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DO hereby certify that the following
is a true and correct copy of the original
as the same appears on file in the
Department of State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Secretary of State has hereunto set his hand and the seal of the Department of State at Washington, D. C., this 13th day of January, 1952.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Section 1. General Policy. It is the policy of the United States to support the efforts of the United Nations to bring about a peaceful settlement of the Korean situation.

(a) The word "United Nations" means the United Nations as defined in the Charter of the United Nations.

(b) The word "peaceful settlement" means any settlement which does not involve the use of force.

Government of the United States and the Government of the United Kingdom.

The United States of America.

(c) The word "peaceful settlement" means any settlement which does not involve the use of force.

of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and the United Nations.

United Nations Committee on the Korean Situation, and the United Nations Commission on the Korean Situation.

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United Nations Commission on the Korean Situation, and the United Nations Commission on the Korean Situation.

buildings of the national capital area, and (3) to set the highest standards of design and workmanship with respect to the works, objects, and services of an esthetic nature purchased, commissioned, or accepted by the Government for location, use, or display in the national capital area.

Section 3. Required referrals to Commission. (a) Any officer or officers of the Government having charge of the design of or plans for the following, located or to be located in the national capital area, shall submit to the Commission all essential matters relating to the said designs or plans which substantially affect the appearance of the national capital area, for advice as to the merits of such plans or designs in respect of the said essential matters:

(1) New public structures to be constructed in the national capital area by or for the Government, including public buildings, bridges, bridge approaches, exterior facilities and fixtures, and redevelopment projects.

(2) The renovation, alteration, or removal of existing public buildings.

(3) Parks.

(b) Any officer or officers of the Government having charge of the following, to be located in the national capital area, shall submit to the Commission the designs therefor for advice as to the merits of such designs:

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(1) Statues, bas-reliefs, fountains, and monuments, including those to be relocated or removed, except such of any of the foregoing as are unimportant to the appearance of the national capital area.

(2) Major mural and portrait paintings and other works of art to be created or acquired with a view toward public display thereof by the Government.

Section 4. Optional referrals to Commission. In addition to the matters hereinabove required to be referred to the Commission, and without regard to the location of the project, work, object, or service involved, any officer or officers of the Government may submit to, and request the advice of, the Commission with respect to (1) the esthetic aspects of projects under his or their charge, (2) the esthetic aspects of works and objects to be created or acquired by him or them, (3) proposed stamps, medals, insignia, and coins under his or their charge, and (4) services of an esthetic nature to be obtained or accepted by him or them.

Section 5. Timing of referral and advice. (a) In the interest of promoting the effectuation of the policy set forth in section 2 of this order, any officer or officers required by section 3, or electing under section 4, of this order to submit plans or designs to the Commission (1) shall do so at the earliest practicable stage of development of the plans or designs, (2) in the case of any major project involving the collaboration of

(1) That, in the event of a default by the contractor, the contractor shall be liable to pay to the Government the amount of the contract price, together with interest thereon at the rate of six per cent per annum, from the date of the default until the date of payment.

(2) That, in the event of a default by the contractor, the contractor shall be liable to pay to the Government the amount of the contract price, together with interest thereon at the rate of six per cent per annum, from the date of the default until the date of payment.

Section 4. Liquidated damages. In the event of a default by the contractor, the contractor shall be liable to pay to the Government the amount of the contract price, together with interest thereon at the rate of six per cent per annum, from the date of the default until the date of payment.

Section 5. Time of payment. The contractor shall pay to the Government the amount of the contract price, together with interest thereon at the rate of six per cent per annum, from the date of the default until the date of payment.

architect with either a sculptor or a painter or both shall accomplish a preliminary referral when the architect has completed his preliminary sketches, and (3) in any case shall accomplish the referral sufficiently in advance of final approval by him or them of the designs or plans involved to afford the Commission reasonable opportunity to determine and formulate its advice thereon.

(b) The Commission shall transmit its advice with respect to any matter submitted to it pursuant to the provisions of this order after such minimum period of time following receipt by the Commission of the request for advice as is consonant with the furnishing of proper advice by the Commission on said matter.

Section 6. Construction. The responsibilities of the Commission under this order are additional to those vested in it by statute.

Section 7. Revocations. The following are hereby revoked:

(1) Executive Order No. 1259 of October 25, 1910, (2) the direction of the President with respect to improvement of grounds dated February 2, 1912, (3) Executive Order No. 1862 of November 28, 1913, and (4) Executive Order No. 3524 of July 28, 1921.

THE WHITE HOUSE

, 1959

EEC 8 1000

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
FEB 2 1959

NOTED

DEL

20 February 1959

Dear Mr. McConihe:

The Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on 18 February 1959, gave careful consideration to the preliminary design submitted for the Home Economics Building at Howard University.

The members recommended that both the long sides of the building be treated in like manner in order to minimize the irregular spacing of the openings on the north side, which will probably be subject to alterations when rearrangement of the interior partitions is made. The recommended window bands, recalling the corridor windows on the south side, would not necessarily need to be all glass, but could be constructed to allow a composition of masonry and glass, which can be varied as desired to accommodate the juncture of the partition walls.

It was also suggested that the design of the central wing of the building seemed to be injured by mere observance of the mandatory requirements for the penthouse and it was recommended that the jagged silhouette of this penthouse be simplified by extending a roof around it or by enlarging it in a horizontal manner, to bring the whole mass into more agreeable harmony with the main structure.

It was further suggested that a restudy of the fenestration for the lounge be undertaken with a view to making this feature of the design as attractive and light as possible. The landscaping was noted favorably, with the hope that the scheme suggested can be carried out.

The Commission will be glad to see the design again at the next meeting on 18 March if they are ready. Kindly advise me if you desire to show the drawings again at that time.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

Honorable F. Moran McConihe
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

20 February 1959

Dear Mr. McConihe:

The Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on 18 February 1959, gave careful consideration to the preliminary design submitted for the Physical Education Building at Howard University.

In approving the design in general as submitted, the members recommended that the exposed steel roof trusses, which are such an important feature of the design, be faced with materials that will stand up reasonably well against deterioration by weather and time. It was also recommended that the facade of the administration wing be treated in a manner which will recall the treatment of the facade of the wing enclosing the swimming pool, in order to give more balance to the mass of the building. A change in location of the tunnel was noted but it was considered that the entrance to the tunnel should be treated to give it more importance as part of the landscape setting of the building.

We shall be glad to consult with you further on these matters if you desire. The next meeting of the Commission is 18 March 1959.

Sincerely yours,


L. R. Wilson
Secretary

Honorable F. Moran McConihe
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

DEF

Exhibit C

19 February 1959

Dear Mr. McConihe:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts which was held yesterday, the members gave careful consideration to your request for advice as to the erection of a cooling tower in the interior court of the Internal Revenue Building. We were very glad to hear your views on this subject, and also those of Mr. Peaslee, the architect.

Subsequently we came to the conclusion that, in the case of the Triangle group of buildings, which were designed by some of the most eminent architects in this country, with interior courts which have a specific purpose in providing light and space for the use of government employees and others, we cannot advise action which would even in part destroy the conception of the architects in designing these buildings. The Commission could not recommend that use be made of the court of the Internal Revenue Building or any other building in the Triangle group as a place for a cooling tower, particularly when space is available to the Government by purchase on Pennsylvania Avenue or directly north of it. Such new space would provide, we understand, a convenient site and would be practical in all respects for the operational unit for the cooling of the Triangle group of buildings.

With the increase in the growth of the city and the expansion of the Government, many demands arise which make it difficult to preserve the beauty of Washington as it now exists, owing to the devoted and intelligent efforts of architects and other persons who have been responsible for planning and building the city over the last century. We feel that our efforts should be directed toward preserving and increasing the beauty of the city, which is of such interest to all Americans, and that we should never do anything which would diminish or destroy the beauty that already exists.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Pinley
Chairman

Honorable P. Moran McConihe
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

cc- Asst. Commr. Design and Construction
Director, Arch. and Structural Division
General Services Administration

Exhibit D

2 March 1959

Dear Mr. Floete:

The Commission of Fine Arts was glad to confer at its meeting on 18 February 1959 with members of your staff and the architects regarding the design problems raised by the proposed construction of Federal Office Building No. 7 and other structures in Square 167 to the west of Jackson Place, facing Lafayette Square. We were very glad to have this material presented in the early stages of the design work.

Unfortunately two of the architect members of the Commission found at the last minute that they could not attend this meeting and information has had to be relayed to them regarding your proposals for this important and sensitive area. In this connection we understand that your representatives presented the material to Mr. Wallace Harrison at his office in New York on the morning of February 19th, and that he will consult with Mr. Douglas Orr at the earliest opportunity. As soon as we have heard from them, I will write you again and give you any further suggestions they may desire to have the Commission make.

The difficulty and complexity of the problem cannot be overstressed because of the many elements that enter into it, and not least the location's proximity to the White House. As you are doubtless aware the L'Enfant Plan of 1791, and the McMillan Commission Plan of 1901 both set standards for the scale and character of Lafayette Square, and the Commission of Fine Arts has attempted to maintain these standards since it was established in 1910. We have not always been successful in doing so, but believe that the opportunity of developing the entire west side of the Square 167 through to 17th Street now offers an opportunity that should not now be allowed to slip away through pressure of expediency. It is probably the last time within the foreseeable future that such an opportunity will occur. For that reason we are most anxious to see that all the aesthetic standards desired for this important area be strictly observed. Furthermore, what is done here, if good, will serve for many years as an example for civic designers.

We were most happy when the General Services Administration was able to work out a transfer of land with the officials of the National Grange, which moved that organization from its present location to a new site at the center of the H Street frontage of Square 167 and to the rear of Decatur House.

Exhibit E

For Mr. Floete - F.C.B. # 2 - Jackson Place

in. C.D. 32d. - Other - National Grange Headquarters

We were disappointed to find, however, that no provisions had been included in the transfer documents to allow for some control of the design of the Grange's new headquarters building. The Architect for this building kindly showed us his preliminary sketches, but the working drawings were not shown to us before application was made for a building permit, and for a waiver of zoning regulations, which was granted by the District Commissioners. A very serious handicap has thus been placed on the desirable development of the Square from the very start, inasmuch as the side and rear elevations of the Grange building will be clearly visible from both the White House and Lafayette Square, and permission to build to the maximum height of 110 feet has created a situation which is difficult to reconcile with the traditional ~~90~~ foot height that has been used for governmental buildings.

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Your architects have now been studying these problems and we were glad to see the block model they have made to show the situation and its possible solutions. The aesthetic problem has been further complicated, of course, by the high-occupancy requirements your office has set up, and which will probably need to be somewhat relaxed if the finest architectural expression of the Square is to be achieved. We will carefully study the schemes for development of the buildings in Square 167, which were presented and we will probably want to discuss the entire matter in more detail with your staff at forthcoming meetings of the Commission or at interim conferences with our architect members.

In general, I think we can now say that the height and general arrangement of the Lafayette Square frontage are satisfactory. There is some desire in the Commission to see an attempt made to balance Decatur House with a brick structure at the Pennsylvania Avenue and Jackson Place corner, either by remodeling the two existing houses there or by erecting a new building in the same scale and character as Decatur House. We hope you will seriously consider this idea, possibly with a connection to Blair House, to enlarge the latter's facilities as a guest house.

The location and suggested treatment of the Court of Claims building seems also to be generally acceptable, but it will probably suffer from its proximity to the Grange building which will tower above it and present its side and rear facades to the Court and to the rest of the Square.

Decatur House will benefit greatly from the open area on its south wall but there is also danger of its being overshadowed by the side wall of the Grange building. Blair-Lee House will also benefit by opening the area for its north side, but there is no doubt that some adjustment of the design must be made to the office building on the 17th Street corner to avoid having its mass dwarf the scale of these two buildings.

I have written you at length because of our firm belief that no steps must be left untried to resolve the difficulties inherent in the practical and aesthetic requirements which cannot be divorced from each other. We will

Honorable Franklin G. Floete

2 March 1959

be happy to work with you and your representatives to find the best possible solution. Because of the great professional and public interest that has been evidenced in this project, and because of its key importance in the appearance of the city, development of any but the finest possible solution should not be entertained. All our abilities will be taxed to the utmost, even with your wise choice of architects.

Please let me know whether we can be of further assistance.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Franklin G. Floete
Administrator of General Services
Washington 25, D. C.

4 March 1959

Dear Mr. Floete:

As I said in my letter to you of March 2nd, the Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on February 18th was glad to confer with members of your staff and the architects regarding design problems raised by the proposed construction of POB #7 and other structures in Square 167, to the west of Jackson Place facing Lafayette Square.

In that letter, I mentioned that, although the National Grange building does not come within the jurisdiction of the Commission of Fine Arts, the architect, who is designing the building, very kindly showed us his preliminary sketches for the building. The working drawings, however, were not shown to us before application was made for a building permit and for a waiver of the zoning regulations permitting the building to be erected to the height of 110 feet, which was granted by the District of Columbia Commissioners. The architect, with the laudable intention of harmonizing the Grange building with Doastur House, proposed the use of brick and limestone for the east and south elevations.

The Commission urged that he confine the materials to limestone, as it is important that the building should harmonize with the adjoining large government building to be erected on the west side of this Square along 17th Street; and, in any event, the members of the Commission do not believe that the combined use of brick and limestone would be suitable for these two facades. We hope that you will urge the architect of the Grange building to use only limestone. I understand that permits for the erection of this building are about to be issued so that it is urgent that the matter be settled as soon as possible.

I should like to repeat again that, in the opinion of the Commission, it is of the utmost importance that a harmonious architectural solution should be found for the various buildings to be erected in Square 167, particularly because of the proximity of this area to the White House. In addition to the building for the National Grange, we understand that these buildings will include a large government office

Honorable Franklin G. Floete

4 March 1959

building on 17th Street, with a smaller and lower building for the Court of Claims in the middle of the square, flanked to the north by Decatur House on Jackson Place and H Street, and to the south by Blair House and Blair-Lee House on Pennsylvania Avenue. The members of the Commission suggested that consideration be given to the erection of a building at the corner of Jackson Place and Pennsylvania Avenue that would provide an architectural balance for Decatur House both in scale and materials. They feel that this is important for the design of the Square, particularly as seen from the White House and Lafayette Square.

Because of the importance of this area in relation to the White House and to Lafayette Square, we believe that the public should be kept advised as to the progress of the plans which are being made by the architects and the General Services Administration, for the use of this Square.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

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Honorable Franklin G. Floete
Administrator of General Services
Washington 25, D. C.

20 February 1959

Dear Mr. McConihe:

The Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on 18 February 1959, gave careful consideration to the design and landscaping submitted for the National Arboretum Headquarters and Administration Building.

The members of the Commission thought the design was excellent and were glad to recommend that it be constructed in accordance with the plans submitted. The ultimate success of a design of this type lies in a careful delineation of the details and in discriminating choice of texture and color in materials and in landscaping. It is hoped that the imagination and refinement suggested by the architect's perspective drawings can be transferred to the resulting building.

The Commission will be glad to consult with your staff further on these matters, if you desire.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

Honorable F. Moran McConihe
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington, 25, D. C.

DEF

Exhibit F

26 February 1959

Maj. Gen. Thomas North, USA, Secretary
American Battle Monuments Commission
2080 Main Navy Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General North:

I read your letter of 13 February 1959, regarding the enlargement of Mr. Bruce Moore's figure for the Hawaii Cemetery, to the members of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on 18 February 1959. The members asked me to assure you of their continuing interest in this work and to thank you for the opportunity to visit the studio at Westport, Connecticut, where the enlarging is being done. It is not probable that they will be able to go as a body, but it is possible that Mr. Orr, whose office is in New Haven, might be able to go. Also, the sculptor member of the Commission, Mr. de Weldon, expressed a desire to go when Mr. Moore feels he is ready to show it at the next size. Further arrangements can be made later.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

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Exhibit C

9 December 1959

Dear General North:

Colonel Shaw has conveyed to me your request for a letter from the Commission of Fine Arts approving the large scale model of the figure which Mr. Bruce Moore has created for the Military Cemetery in Hawaii. You will recall that the Commission saw and approved small scale designs of the sculpture on 22 May 1958.

Unfortunately Mr. Felix deWeldon, the sculptor member of the Commission, was unable to be present in June 1959 when you, Mr. Harbeson and Lee Lawrie inspected the 15 foot clay model in the studio in New York where the sculptor was working. Mr. Wilson, the Secretary, did, however, visit the studio and he reported to me that the enlargement of the figure had been accomplished successfully and that the enlargement had the appearance of the small scale models which the Commission had approved.

The Commission has confidence in the sculptor and has never felt that inspection of each stage of the enlargement would be necessary after the model had reached a size where it could not readily be transported to our conference room.

I am afraid it will be impossible for Mr. deWeldon to get to New York to see the model before it is ready for shipment, but perhaps Mr. Moore could show pictures to Mr. deWeldon at the time of the next meeting on the 16th of December. Mr. Wilson can make arrangements for him to do so if you desire.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Major General Thomas North
Secretary
American Battle Monuments Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

RW sub

26 February 1959

Maj. Gen. Thomas North, USA, Secretary
American Battle Monuments Commission
2080 Main Navy Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General North:

The Commission of Fine Arts considered your letter of 30 January 1959, regarding the selection of an architect for the proposed Okinawa Memorial, at its meeting on 18 February 1959. The members of the Commission concurred in Mr. Harbeson's recommendation of Mr. Alfred Easton Poor as architect for this work. However, in studying this problem, the members wondered whether any consideration had been given to using, alone or as a collaborator of Mr. Poor, a young Japanese-American architect. It would seem appropriate to do so in this instance.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

Enclosure

Exhibit H

NAMES OF SOME JAPANESE-AMERICAN ARCHITECTS NOW PRACTISING:

Kazumi Adachi
1578 West 35th Place
Los Angeles 13, California

Eugene Kodani (Member of 442nd Infantry Division)
6429 Colby Avenue
Oakland, California

Kenneth M. Nishimoto
263 South Los Robles Avenue
Pasadena 3, California

George Matsumoto
Faculty
North Carolina State College
Raleigh, North Carolina

Gyo Obata
Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum, Inc.
315 North 10th Street
St. Louis, Missouri

Minoru Yamasaki
Yamasaki, Leinweber & Associates
1025 East Maple Road
Birmingham, Michigan

24 February 1959

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting held on 18 February 1959 considered the design submitted by Mr. Haussmann for the Washington Water Sports Center to be erected at the confluence of Rock Creek and the Potomac River. The Commission felt that the design should receive further study along lines that were indicated to Mr. Haussmann and would be glad to consider the matter and advise you at the next meeting of the Commission to be held on March 18th.

I might call attention to the fact that The Evening Star of 20 February 1959 had a picture of the design of the boat house and stated it had received the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts. This was evidently a mistake on the part of the newspaper and I would suggest that you so advise them.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. Harry T. Thompson
Superintendent
National Capital Parks
Room 1013 Interior Department
Washington 25, D. C.

Exhibit I

22 June 1959

Lt. Col. James S. Cook, Jr.
Chief, Heraldic Branch
Quartermaster General's Office
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Colonel Cook:

I have had the sculptor member of the Commission of Fine Arts look at the revised design for the National Security Agency's Exceptional Civilian Service Medal. He considered that the design now met reasonably well the suggestions made by the Commission when it reviewed the previous design on 26 May 1959. You will recall that I imparted these suggestions for changes to you verbally.

The Commission accordingly has no further objections to the design.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

Enclosure: Original copy of revised
design of medal

Exhibit J

25 February 1959

Lt. Col. James S. Cook, Jr.
Chief, Heraldic Branch
Quartermaster Corps
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Colonel Cook:

The Commission of Fine Arts considered the revised design submitted by your office for a Seal for the High Commissioner of the Ryukyu Islands at its meeting on 18 February 1959.

The design was approved. The members noted that no reference was made to the United States Government in the text of the medal and asked me to call this to your attention.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

Exhibit K

25 February 1959

Lt. Col. James S. Cook, Jr.
Chief, Heraldic Branch
Quartermaster Corps
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Colonel Cook:

The Commission of Fine Arts considered the design submitted by your office for a Seal for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at its meeting on 18 February 1959.

After careful consideration, the sketch design was reluctantly approved with the recommendation that the letters "USA" be made the same height as the other letters.

The members asked me to point out that this design is primarily a pictorial conception and is very reminiscent of designs appearing in current commercial advertising. It has limited sculptural possibilities, although some of its limitations may possibly be adjusted if a plaster model is made.

We would be glad to confer with you further on this matter if further studies can be made.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary



NATIONAL SCULPTURE SOCIETY

1083 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 28, NEW YORK

February 9, 1959

David E. Finley, Esq.
Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

With good intent, but through artistic oversight, an act of desecration has been committed by our Government. We refer to the change in the reverse side of the one cent coin as a feature of the Lincoln Sesquicentennial celebration.

Although many Americans may not realize it the coins they handle daily are in fact miniature works of art. At the turn of the century, President Theodore Roosevelt, arranged, after consultation with the great sculptor, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, to bring to our coinage the talents of the best American sculptors. The aesthetic improvement in our metallic money was one of our Twentieth Century artistic triumphs.

The Lincoln penny was designed by Victor D. Brenner, the Indian nickel by James Earle Fraser, the Liberty dime and half dollar by Adolph A. Weinman, two silver quarters by Hermon A. MacNeill and John Flanagan, a silver dollar by Anthony de Francisci. Saint-Gaudens, himself, made the models for the \$10 and \$20 gold pieces. Each artist, of course, designed both sides of the coin, a fundamental principle of medallic art.

On January 2, 1959, the Government began minting a semi-new Lincoln penny. The obverse side retains the portrait of Lincoln by Brenner, but the reverse side has been changed to contain a design of the Lincoln Memorial.

This deplorable change was discussed at the recent sixty-sixth annual meeting of the National Sculpture Society. The following points were emphasized:

1. That the scale and character of the original coin had been lost through violation of the unwritten, but common sense, law that both sides of a coin or medal should be designed by the same sculptor.

MANSHIP
HONORARY PRESIDENT
W. S. HARDIN
PRESIDENT
JOHN ELISCU
VICE-PRESIDENT
JOHN KEALLY
VICE-PRESIDENT
JOHN C. TREES
TREASURER
ALPH BLOCK
SECRETARY
BERT L. KAMMERER
RECORDING SECRETARY
DRED J. AMABILE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
ODORA MORGAN
PUBLIC RELATIONS
COUNCIL
J. G. ADAMS
W. P. BRINDES
JOHN CAVALLITO
FRIEDLANDER
L. H. GRUPPE
KER HANCOCK
EL BRILL JACKSON
HAS G. LO MEDICO
HUR E. LORENZANI
INO MANCA
NO MANKOWSKI
SBAYE MARANS
RO MONTANA
H NICKERSON
L. L. SCHMITZ
ELLUM SMITH, JR.
VIN F. SPRINGWEILER
NEY WAUGH
VISORY BOARD
OF
ST PRESIDENTS
JL MANSHIP
MOND AMATEIS
NALO DE LUE
NEY WAUGH
RL H. GRUPPE
HEELER WILLIAMS
O FRIEDLANDER

February 9, 1959

2. That the new design not only does not reach the artistic level our coinage has enjoyed for the last 50 years, but more nearly resembles the design of a typical transportation token.
3. That it was a matter of grave concern to the profession that the artistic traditions established by Theodore Roosevelt and Augustus Saint-Gaudens were not maintained in this instance. It was felt that such departure from artistic tradition represents a threat to the future standards of coin design in this country.

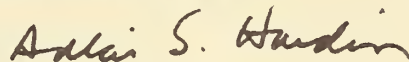
The Lincoln penny has been very popular. Twenty-five billion have been minted in its 49 years of existence. The Government, however, could have had designed an entirely new coin around the Lincoln Memorial theme if it so desired. Such a splendid opportunity to show the artistic ability of our country was lost because someone practised false economy. Is this not a case of being penny foolish and supposedly dollar wise?

It is unfortunate that the Government, while seeking new ways to promote American culture, as evidenced by the flood of art bills in Congress, does not hold on to one of its most successful art accomplishments.

It may be too late to rectify this error, but we hope that those in authority will be reminded of the desirability of maintaining artistic standards and that there will be no further aesthetic debasement of minted money.

Perhaps a way to rectify the matter would be to put the complete original coin back into production after this year of the Lincoln celebration.

Respectfully yours,



Adlai S. Hardin
President

19 February 1959

Dear Mr. Hardin:

I have your letter of February 9th and am glad to have copies of the resolutions adopted by the National Sculpture Society at its recent sixty-sixth annual meeting regarding the use of designs on coins and medals which are issued by the United States Government. I note that objection is raised to the use of a design on one side of a coin by one artist, and a change made in the reverse side of the coin by another artist. You refer especially to the newly issued Lincoln penny.

I read your letter to the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting yesterday. The members agreed, of course, with the position taken by the National Sculpture Society that either a new coin or medal should be designed or the artist who designed it originally should be asked to revise the design if a change is to be made to one of the sides.

In the case of the Lincoln penny, the Director of the Mint was at somewhat of a disadvantage. The Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission desired to have a new Lincoln penny issued on February 12th, and the notice was so short that the Director of the Mint apparently had no opportunity to have an entirely new design made for this coin. The Director of the Mint, Mr. William Brett, regrets the occurrence and expects in the future to submit designs to the Commission of Fine Arts in time to receive its considered advice on such matters.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

LEW

Mr. Adlai S. Hardin
President, National Sculpture Society
1083 Fifth Avenue
New York 28, New York

12 March 1959

Dear General Welling:

At the meetings of the Commission of Fine Arts, which were held on January 21st and February 18th, 1959, the members of the Commission conferred with your representative, Mr. Sawyer, and also the bridge designers, Mr. Masters and Mr. Hough, regarding progress on the design of the Theodore Roosevelt bridge.

At the January meeting, Mr. Masters stated that there would be 6 equal spans, each 252 feet long. The Commission approved the design with the understanding that there would be two sidewalks on the bridge.

Also at this meeting, there was some discussion concerning the design of lighting standards to be used on the bridge. Mr. Sawyer said that, in accordance with his understanding of the wishes of the Commission, he would have a study made of the type of lighting standards to be used and would submit a design of a 25 foot standard with 6 foot arm instead of selecting a stock item.

At the meeting on February 18th, Mr. Sawyer stated that the Bureau of Public Roads had ruled that the standards should not be placed on the median strip of the bridge but that they should be placed on the railings. The Commission approved the placing of the standards on the railings with the understanding that a special design would be prepared.

There was some discussion at both meetings regarding sculpture on the District end of the bridge which would suggest the achievements and character of Theodore Roosevelt. The Commission felt that such sculptural decoration would add to the dignity and interest of the bridge and stated that they would consult with the trustees of the Theodore Roosevelt Association concerning their wishes in the matter.

We understand that Mr. Sawyer will submit a plan showing the approach roads with connections and secondary bridges as soon as the sketches have been completed. The Commission expressed great interest in seeing such sketches and hope they will be submitted at an early date.

Brig. Gen. A. C. Welling
12 March 1959

page 2

As the problem of a pedestrian access to the Island remains to be solved, we have written to the Theodore Roosevelt Association to ask their views as to this matter.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Brig. Gen. A. C. Welling
Engineer Commissioner for the
District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

(LFW)

9 March 1959

Brig. General A. C. Welling
Engineer Commissioner for
the District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

Dear General Welling:

Enclosed is a copy of a study for the simplification of the traffic scheme of the Lincoln Memorial area, prepared by Mr. John R. Inner, President, Work Saving International.

At the request of the Committee of 100 on the National Capital, Mr. Inner presented his ideas to the Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on 18 February 1959. Mr. Inner's scheme appeared to simplify the complex traffic plan. Mr. G. I. Sawyer of the Department of Highways was present during Mr. Inner's presentation. I have also written to him about this matter.

It is now being forwarded for the consideration of the technical solution by the Highway Department, in accordance with the discussion between Mr. Sawyer, Mr. Inner, and the members of the Commission of Fine Arts, who would appreciate receiving your evaluation of the scheme.

Sincerely yours,


L. R. Wilson
Secretary

Enclosure: cpy of drawing C-7
cpy of drawing C-8

cc Mr. G. I. Sawyer, D. C. Dept. of H. & T.
Mr. H. L. Aitken, D. C. Dept. of H. & T.
AITKEN

12 March 1959

Dear General Welling:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on February 18th, the members reviewed the design for the railing on the Washington Channel Bridge and recommended that the cross members in the design be omitted and a plain picket design used. I hope that this plan will be carried out.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Brig. Gen. A. C. Welling
Engineer Commissioner for
the District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1 April 1959

Mr. Richard C. Crutchfield, Chief
Office of Design and Engineering
D. C. Department of Buildings and Grounds
300 Indiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Mr. Crutchfield:

I am writing to summarize for your records the main ideas that were developed when you discussed, with the Commission of Fine Arts, the designs of certain of the buildings now being developed in the current building program of the Department of Buildings and Grounds, District of Columbia Government. You will recall that preliminary drawings for these projects were first presented on 21 January, when you and Mr. Purcell suggested further development of the designs in accordance with the suggestions made by the members of the Commission, and resubmission at the February meeting.

The following projects were accordingly considered at the 18 February meeting:

1. Fire Station at 23rd and M Streets, N. W.

A revised perspective drawing was shown, incorporating the changes recommended previously at the 21 January meeting, namely a coordination of the low wing of the building with the higher main block by use of a horizontal roof and lintel line. The design was approved with the further recommendation that there be four divisions in the windows of the second story instead of three as shown. This change would apply to the windows on the front and above the side of the dormitory.

2. Police Precinct No. 4 at 4th and E Streets, S. W.

A revised perspective drawing was presented showing the building which was considered good in design and approved. A further recommendation was made to omit the low wall around the flagpole and replace the paving with appropriate planting.

3. Fire Station at 6th and E Streets, S. W.

The design of the building was approved as shown in the perspective drawing, with the recommendation that the projecting piers around the three entrance doors be eliminated.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

WASHINGTON 22. D. C.

1. The first part of the report is a general introduction to the subject of the study. It discusses the importance of the study and the objectives of the research.

11/11/1919

1 April 1959

4. Fire Training School at Blue Plains

A revised perspective of the layout was presented in which each of the separate units making up the group of structures was clearly indicated. Previous suggestions relative to the design of the Administration Building were considered to be successfully incorporated. Most of the other structures were designed simply to provide training facilities. The designs of the various elements gave promise of their being successfully developed into a good group of buildings and it was approved as submitted.

The members of the Commission were glad to study these design problems with you and Mr. Purcell.

I am writing to you now. Sincerely yours,
L. R. Wilson
Secretary

The design was reviewed briefly at the 12th meeting of the Commission on April 1st, 1959, and was approved as submitted. The members of the Commission are very pleased with the design and the perspective view which shows the buildings in relation to the surrounding landscape. The difficulties posed by the location of the buildings were recognized, but the design is very satisfactory. However, the design should be revised to show the buildings in relation to the surrounding landscape. A further revision will be required to show the buildings in relation to the surrounding landscape.

We will be glad to see the revised design of the buildings.

2 April 1959

Mr. Richard C. Crutchfield, Chief
Office of Design and Engineering
D. C. Dept. of Buildings and Grounds
300 Indiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.

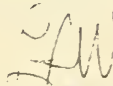
Dear Mr. Crutchfield:

I am writing to confirm that the design of the Amidon-Greenleaf School was first considered by the Commission of Fine Arts when presented by you at its meeting on 21 January 1959. At that time certain observations were made about the general character which the Commission believed is desirable for school design in the District of Columbia, and you and Mr. Purcell took back the design for restudy.

The design was reviewed briefly at the 18 February meeting, and at the 18 March meeting, when you returned to confer with the members of the Commission on other matters. A revised perspective was shown which incorporated many of the previous suggestions. The difficulties posed by the requirements of the building were recognized, but the members believed, however, that the stair towers were still too prominent and advised further study to harmonize them in form and color with the main mass of the building. A further suggestion was to increase the importance of the main entrance and to allow the shelter roof to overlap the adjacent stair tower.

We will be glad to see further development of the design.

Sincerely yours,



L. R. Wilson
Secretary

<u>NO</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
2146	149 Indep. Ave., SE Rector's Grill	Install concrete steps to replace exist. wood stairs; install new doors, openings & revise permanent items	App'd. Design of proposed changes will improve fronts; but suggest clear or obscure glass be used in panel to left of restaurant doorway instead of corrugated aluminum. Also suggest that all glass facing be same color & that inappropriate awning be omitted, 2/16/59
2147	3001 Birch St., NW Mr. Wm. Manger	Encl. exist. screen porch with 22" brick wall up from exist. concrete slab & install awning type windows to fill the balance of openings; install jalousie door on rear	Disapp'd. Proposed design of windows is disordered & would disfigure one of the best features of a charming house. If extension is desired, recom. same design as exist. gable end, 2/16/59

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PROJECT

ADDRESS AND OWNER

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2332	Rear 1115-30th St. Wash. Gas Light Co.	Raze prefabricated bldg.	Recom'd., 1/27/59
2333	1619-30th St. Langood Realty Co.	Erect square awning, canvas over metal frame over front door, green	Recom'd., 2/2/59
2334	1204-30th St. France's Rest.	1 green canvas awning over front door, M St. entr., with fixed iron frames, non folding or hinged. sign using sloping awning, whose size & placement are carefully harmonized with other features of facade; also suggest omission of advertising text on awning if contemplated, 2/6/59	Not recom'd. Form of requested hood-type awning with exposed pipe hangers, not considered appropriate for this 18th Century bldg. Prefer to see no awning at this location, but if applicant insists, suggest redesign, size, or location of lamps on br. posts at driveway entr. on 30th St., 2/6/59
2335	1645 Wisc. Ave. Old Salzburg Shop	Install light outlet at front entrance	Recom'd., but suggest attaching light in center above door opening to minimize disordered appearance of signs, & light on door frame, 2/6/59
2336	1345-30th St. Mrs. Walter Peter	Replace defective bracket light fixture at front entr.	Recom'd., 2/6/59
2337	1100-29th St. Wash. Gas Light Co.	Raze in entirety 2-story br. storage shed; pipe storage rack constructed of pipe & fittings with superimposed cast iron platform on structural steel supports & storage shed made of corrugated iron on structural steel frame	Recom'd., 2/6/59
2338	1100-29th St. 1101-30th St. Wash. Gas Light Co.	Install 2 gas lights on both sides of entr. at 1100-29th St; 2 on both sides of entr. at 1101-30th St; & 1 on each br. post at driveway entr. on 30th St.	Ret'd. Fixtures already installed at entrances to 1100-29th St., & 1101-30th St. Design appears satisfactory. No indication with this application as to design, size, or location of lamps on br. posts at driveway entr. on 30th St., 2/6/59
2340	1115-30th St. Wash. Gas Light Co.	Replace 2 incandescent light fixtures with gas fixtures of similar design	Recom'd., 2/16/59

Exhibit A

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON OLD GEORGETOWN ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 21 JANUARY 1959 MEETING

Appendix 2

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APPENDIX 3

- (a) S. 454/86th Cong. - a bill "To provide for suitable works of art in Federal bldgs." (Rpt. requested)
- (b) H. R. 3509/86th Cong. - a bill "To provide that the Administrator of General Services shall save historic bldgs. and works of Art owned by the United States and shall restore such works of art which have deteriorated or become damaged; to provide high standards of architectural design and ~~and~~ decoration for Federal public bldgs.; and for other purposes." ~~(Rpt. requested)~~ (Rpt. requested)
- (c) H. R. 4046/86th Cong. - a bill "To amend the Act of 8/21/35, to provide for the determination of whether certain sites, bldgs., or other objects, such as the historic State, War, Navy Bldg., the San Francisco Mint, and the Morristown National Historical Park, are of national historical significance in order to successfully save those sites, bldgs., and objects which are of great national value and which are now being destroyed or are being threatened with destruction by the Federal Government as well as by private interests." (Rpt. requested)
- (d) H. R. 3459/86th Cong. - a bill "To amend the Act of 8/21/35, to provide for a determination of whether certain sites, bldgs., or other objects are of national historical significance, and to prohibit the use of Federal funds for highway purposes which damage or destroy national historical sites, bldgs., or other objects." (Rpt. requested)
- (e) H. J. Res. 164/86th Cong. - a joint resolution "To authorize a memorial in the District of Columbia to honor the Boy Scouts of America." (Rpt. requested)
- (f) S. 602/86th Cong. - a bill "Authorizing the Boy Scouts of America to erect a memorial on public grounds in the District of Columbia to honor the members and leaders of such organization, and for other purposes." (Rpt. requested)
- (g) H. R. 2569/86th Cong. - a bill "To provide for the establishment of a Federal Advisory Council on the Arts to assist in the growth and development of the fine arts in the United States." (Rpt. requested)
- (h) H. R. 2441/86th Cong. - a bill "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 to reduce the admissions tax where a substantial part of the program consists of live musical or dramatic performances in order to provide greatly increased employment, accompanied by larger tax revenue which will offset any losses to the Federal Government, in the entertainment and related industries; to aid the motion picture industry which has suffered a decline; to foster the growth and development of the fine arts in the United States without resort to the subsidies common in other countries, and for other purposes." (Rpt. requested)

(i) H. R. 2505/86th Cong. - a bill "To liberalize the tariff laws for works of art and other exhibition material, and for other purposes." (Rpt. requested)

(j) CFA Executive Order progress.

(k) H. R. 3401/86th Cong. (Same as H. R. 3509 on pg. 1) (Rpt. requested)

(l) H. R. 3488/86th Cong. (Same as H. R. 3509 on pg. 1) (Rpt. requested)

(m) H. R. 3499/86th Cong. (Same as H. R. 3509 on pg. 1) (Rpt. requested)

(n) H. R. 3763/86th Cong. (Same as H. R. 3509 on pg. 1) (Rpt. requested)

(o) H. R. 3770/86th Cong. (Same as H. R. 3509 on pg. 1) (Rpt. requested)

(p) H. R. 4325/86th Cong. (Same as H. R. 3509 on pg. 1) (Rpt. requested)

(1) The following information was obtained from the records of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, for the years 1947 through 1954:

- (a) The following information was obtained from the records of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, for the years 1947 through 1954:
- (b) The following information was obtained from the records of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, for the years 1947 through 1954:
- (c) The following information was obtained from the records of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, for the years 1947 through 1954:
- (d) The following information was obtained from the records of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, for the years 1947 through 1954:
- (e) The following information was obtained from the records of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, for the years 1947 through 1954:
- (f) The following information was obtained from the records of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, for the years 1947 through 1954: